

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ISO-00

FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0071

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2438

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TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, ECE, ENRG, ELTN, UR, US, CA, GW, WB

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR POST-HELSINKI CONFERENCES ON ENERGY,
ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

REF: MOSCOW 2080, MOSCOW 1943

1. SUMMARY - DURING A CONVERSATION FEBRUARY 17 A.Y. NESTORENKO,
CHIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF THE
MFA, GAVE ME A LIMITED AMOUNT OF INFORMATION ON SOVIET PROPOSALS

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FOR SPECIAL CONFERENCES ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT WHICH

WOULD BE STAGED AS FOLLOW-UP TO CSCE. NESTORENKO SAID THAT SOVIET PLANS FOR THESE CONFERENCES ARE STILL BEING FORMULATED. PREPARATION OF AGENDA IS A VERY COMPLICATED MATTER BUT SHOULD BE COMPLETED SOON. HE ALSO SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW ALL COUNTRIES PRESENT AT HELSINKI WOULD BE INVITED, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. HE APPEARED TO BE NEGATIVE ON THE USE OF ECE AS A FORUM, NOTING THAT HELSINKI HAD TAKEN PLACE OUTSIDE OF THE UN AND COMMENTING THAT MEETINGS ON SUCH SUBJECTS IN UN ORGANIZATIONS TEND TO "SINK INTO A SWAMP." NESTORENKO CLAIMED THAT MENTION OF PROPOSALS FOR THE CONFERENCES IN LEADERSHIP SPEECHES AT THE CPSU CONGRESS IS A POSSIBILITY BUT NOT A CERTAINTY. END SUMMARY

2. I BEGAN MY CONVERSATION WITH NESTORENKO BY ASKING HIM ABOUT SOVIET PLANS FOR SPECIAL POST-HELSINKI CONFERENCES ON ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROPOSALS MADE BY BREZHNEV AT THE POLISH PARTY CONGRESS IN DECEMBER. I SAID I WAS INTERESTED IN KNOWING JUST WHAT THE USSR HAD IN MIND AND WHO WOULD ATTEND.

3. NESTORENKO REPLIED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GIVE A PRECISE ANSWER BECAUSE SOVIET PLANS WERE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION AND HE DID NOT WANT MAKE FIRM STATEMENTS BEFORE THE SOVIET POSITION WAS ESTABLISHED. IN THE NEAR FUTURE, HOWEVER, HE WOULD HAVE MORE DEFINITE INFORMATION AND THEN IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO CONSULT WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON THE AGENDA AND ON WHO SHOULD TAKE PART. IT WAS HIS PERSONAL VIEW, HE ADXXDED, THAT THE PARTICIPANTS WOULD PROBABLY INCLUDE ALL THOSE COUNTRIES PRESENT AT THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE. ANSWERING MY SPECIFIC QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THIS MEANT INCLUSION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA HE REPLIED THAT IT DID.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY COMMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE USSR ALREADY HAVE JOINT AGREEMENTS ON ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY, NESTORENKO SAID THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE POINTS THAT MUST BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN MAKING UP THE VARIOUS AGENDAS. IN FACT, THE PREPARATION OF THE QUESTIONS AND ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED IS A DELICATE AND COMPLICATED AFFAIR. SOME COUNTRIES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE IDENTICAL VIEWS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, OTHERS DO NOT. IN ANY EVENT, THE UNITED STATES WILL BE INFORMED AS SOON AS PREPARATORY WORK IS COMPLETED. (COMMENT - BRITISH HERE TELL US THAT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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VERSATION REPORTED PARA 3 MOSCOW 2080, LOGINOV SPECIFIED FURTHER THAT SOVIETS WOULD BE TAKING "BROAD" RATHER THAN "NARROW" VIEW OF ENERGY DISCUSSIONS, AND WOULD WANT THEM TO COVER EXPLORATION, EXTRACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AS WELL AS DISTRIBUTION. THEIR THINKING MAY THUS BE SOMEWHAT FURTHER ALONG THAN NESTORENKO HAS INTIMATED. END COMMENT)

5. I ASKED WHETHER NESTORENKO THOUGHT THAT THIS SUBJECT MIGHT

BE BROUGHT UP AT THE CPSU CONGRESS, PERHAPS IN A BREZHNEV SPEECH. HE SAID THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SAY. "PERHAPS." HE ADDED THAT, AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI AND THE CONTINUATION OF MOMENTUM WHICH BEGAN THERE, THE CONFERENCES ARE REGARDED BY THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP AS A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER.

6. I MENTIONED THE ECE AND WONDERED HOW IT WOULD FIT INTO THE CONCEPT OF CONFERENCES. HE REPLIED THAT ECE IS BEING CONSIDERED AND THAT BEFORE ANY CONCLUSIONS ARE REACHED DISCUSSIONS WILL BE HELD WITH ECE SECRETARY GENERAL STANOVNIK WHO WILL SOON BE COMING TO MOSCOW. HE IMPLIED, HOWEVER, THAT CURRENT SOVIET THINKING ON ECE IS NEGATIVE. THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE HAD TAKEN PLACE OUTSIDE OF THE UN. FURTHERMORE, "EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT IN UN ORGANIZATIONS SUCH QUESTIONS FREQUENTLY BECOME BOGGED DOWN, THEY SINK INTO A SWAMP." ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EXPERIENCE OF SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS ECE MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AND PERHAPS IT SHOULD BE REPRESENTED.

7. AS THE CONVERSATION ENDED, NESTORENKO REMARKED THAT HE HOPED THE USSR WOULD SOON HEAR SOME POSITIVE VIEWS FROM THE WESTERN COUNTRIES ON THIS MATTER, AND ESPECIALLY FROM THE UNITED STATES. I REPLIED THAT THE SUBJECT OF COURSE WAS AN INTERESTING ONE BUT THAT I COULD NOT COMMENT SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE ABSENCE OF INSTRUCTIONS.

8. COMMENT - WE FIND NESTORENKO'S COMMENTS APPROXIMATELY THE SAME AS THOSE MADE TO FRG AMBASSADOR SAHM AS REPORTED IN MOSCOW 2080. ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT AS FORTHCOMING REGARDING NON-USE OF ECE AND DISCUSSION AT THE CPSU CONGRESS. AS TO THE LATTER, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR CONFERENCES WILL BE GIVEN PROMINENT MENTION IN BREZHNEV'S SPEECH. END COMMENT.
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